

From: Byron Salazar
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/19/01 9:41pm
Subject: Proposed Final Judgement

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am an student and employee of the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. As I work extensively with personal computers using Microsoft and competing products, I was dismayed by the limited nature of the proposed Final Judgement regarding Microsoft's use of its monopoly power.

Microsoft has demonstrated repeatedly that it is willing to use its monopoly power to gain an unfair advantage over competitors. This has been proven in a court of law. Although the proposed judgement begins to address past infractions on Microsoft's part, those battles in the marketplace are over, and Microsoft has already won. Microsoft is already moving on, and the judgement does little to prevent future abuses of monopoly power.

Microsoft is aggressively pursuing several new strategies. Among them are the "Passport" authentication system and the ".Net" subscription process. Because these are heavily integrated in the XP operating system, they are poised to benefit from and strengthen Microsoft's monopoly position. Further, The ".Net" strategy is integrated into the Windows license, effectively neutralizing the Judgement's power over it. Passport is forced upon users of many Microsoft web services, (including the popular Hotmail) which in turn are integrated into Microsoft applications, which have already come to dominate the market as a result of Microsoft's monopoly power.

The Judgement as proposed would have been very effective five years ago. Unfortunately, this industry changes very rapidly. Much more broad measures are necessary to protect consumers now and in the future.

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